

Chairman Robertson and committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

A) HB4347 will amend PA253 of 1917 to allow county board's the opportunity to assist in the construction or maintenance of county roads, if the county has the desire and financial ability to do so.

Presently, PA253 does not allow county boards to participate in road maintenance when funds are derived from property tax. As you know a large portion of county funding comes from property tax collections.

This legislation passed in the House of Representatives unanimously.

B) This amendment is not a mandate for counties to fund roads, but is a tool to allow counties the ability to participate if desired by county commissioners.

c) The amendment enables county governments to be a player in road projects, especially local roads.

Because of the current economics of government, it may be doubtful that many counties could commit to large road projects. However, in lieu of an economic development project that may have road requirements a county board may wish to participate in road improvements that will enhance county employment.

D) This amendment will also give counties, local municipalities and road commissions the ability to join together sharing resources for much needed road projects.

In this day of economic recovery and providing services, it just makes common sense that sharing resources and consolidating resources will get the work of the people done and decreases the overall costs to government.

E) Nearly forty years ago Monroe County created a local program that shared the costs of road improvements with local municipalities and the county road commission. Because there is no enabling legislation to fund the program, the program ceased in 2009 creating further hardship on local roads.

I ask for your support to amend Act 253 of 1917.

F) I would like to introduce Henry Lieven, a current county commissioner on the Monroe County Board, who will provide some insight to the advantages of counties being able to participate with road maintenance and construction.

Thank you Chairman Roberson.